

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 20-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-7 and 9-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 6 are the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-19 are allowed, but claims 20-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by GB 1,427,485 ("GB'485").

Claims 20-26 have been canceled by the present amendment. Accordingly, the rejection is moot.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

If there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/502,446
Attorney Docket No. 042573

If this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

/nicolas seckel/

Nicolas E. Seckel
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,373
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

NES/rep